

RNR 919

LEAD GISCARD

BY DAVID LAWDAY

PARIS, SEPT 6, REUTER - PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS INVITED THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES TO INFORMAL DINNER TALKS HERE SEPTEMBER 14 TO DISCUSS WAYS OF STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN UNITY, THE ELYSEE PALACE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A PRESIDENTIAL AIDE SAID THE PRIVATE DINNER WAS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE E.E.C. SUMMIT CONFERENCE MR GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS PROPOSED FOR LATER THIS YEAR.

"THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR INITIATIVE," THE AIDE SAID. THE FRENCH LEADER'S OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND OUT IN AN OPEN, INFORMAL WAY THE POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST FOR RELAUNCHING THE DRIVE TOWARD EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION, HE ADDED.

MORE 0718

RNR 920

LEAD GISCARD 2 PARIS

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS A SURPRISE BUT THE IDEA WAS CLEARLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN MR GISCARD D'ESTAING AND WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT DURING THEIR TALKS HERE ON TUESDAY.

ELYSEE SOURCES SAID SEVERAL E.E.C. PARTNERS HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED, INCLUDING WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN AND DENMARK.

A BRIEF ELYSEE COMMUNIQUE SAID THE DINNER TALKS WILL COVER "THE CURRENT STATE OF EUROPEAN PROBLEMS."

THESE INCLUDE INFLATION, FARM PRICES AND OTHER ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AS WELL AS THE PLAN TO PULL THE E.E.C. OUT OF ITS PRESENT DOLDRUMS BY SETTING IT ON THE ROAD TO A FULL-FLEDGED UNION, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, BY THE 1980 TARGET DATE.

MORE 0720

RNR 921

LEAD GISCARD 3 PARIS

PRESIDENTIAL AIDES STRESSED THE PRIVATE NATURE OF THE COMING DINNER MEETING, EMPHASIZING: "THIS IS NOT A SUMMIT CONFERENCE."

THE ELYSEE DINNER UNDERLINES THE GREATER INFORMALITY THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED TOP-LEVEL EUROPEAN GET-TOGETHERS SINCE THE DISAPPOINTING COPENHAGEN SUMMIT IN 1973, WHICH WAS BURDENED BY LARGE DELEGATIONS AND BUREAUCRACY.

MR GISCARD D'ESTAING HOPES THE DINNER TALKS WILL PRODUCE BASIC AGREEMENT ON INITIATIVES THAT CAN BE EXAMINED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTING THESE INITIATIVES THEN COULD BE SEALED AT THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE, PROJECTED FOR LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER.

WHEN HE PROPOSED THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE 10 DAYS AGO, THE FRENCH LEADER ALSO SAID HE WOULD SHORTLY BE SUGGESTING NEW MEASURES FOR REVIVING THE MORIBUND EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION.

(NO PICKUP)

REUTER 0721